

We claim:

1. A program product for use by a device in a wireless communications environment, the program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

Platform dependent logic, the platform dependent logic for use by a wireless device to translate platform independent protocol messages into platform dependent commands for execution, the platform dependent commands being dependent upon the hardware upon which they are employed, the platform independent protocol messages being exchanged between wireless devices by platform independent logic not dependent upon the hardware upon which it is employed, the platform independent protocol messages for controlling channel selection and for causing power adjustment and for load balancing of wireless devices.

2. The program product of claim 1 wherein the platform independent messages include Claim messages used by devices to select a channel on which to communicate;

3. The program product of claim 1 wherein the platform independent messages include Announce messages used by devices to indicate their presence and their protocol capability to other devices;

4. The program product of claim 3 wherein the platform independent messages include Bid messages, wherein a sending device sends a Bid message to a receiving device to indicate that the sending device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the receiving device;
5. The program product of claim 4 wherein the platform independent messages include Accept messages, wherein a sending device sends an Accept message to a receiving device in response to a Bid message to indicate that the sending device will allow the receiving device to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the sending device.
6. The program product of claim 5 wherein the platform independent messages include Registration Request messages, wherein a sending device sends a registration request message to a receiving device to indicate that the sending device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the receiving device using a particular protocol;
7. The program product of claim 6 wherein the platform independent messages include Registration Acknowledge messages, wherein a sending device sends a Registration acknowledge message to a receiving device in response to a Registration Request message, to indicate that the sending device understands that the receiving device will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the Dynamic Radio Control Protocol.

8. The program product of claim 1 wherein the wireless communications environment is an 802.11 wireless network.